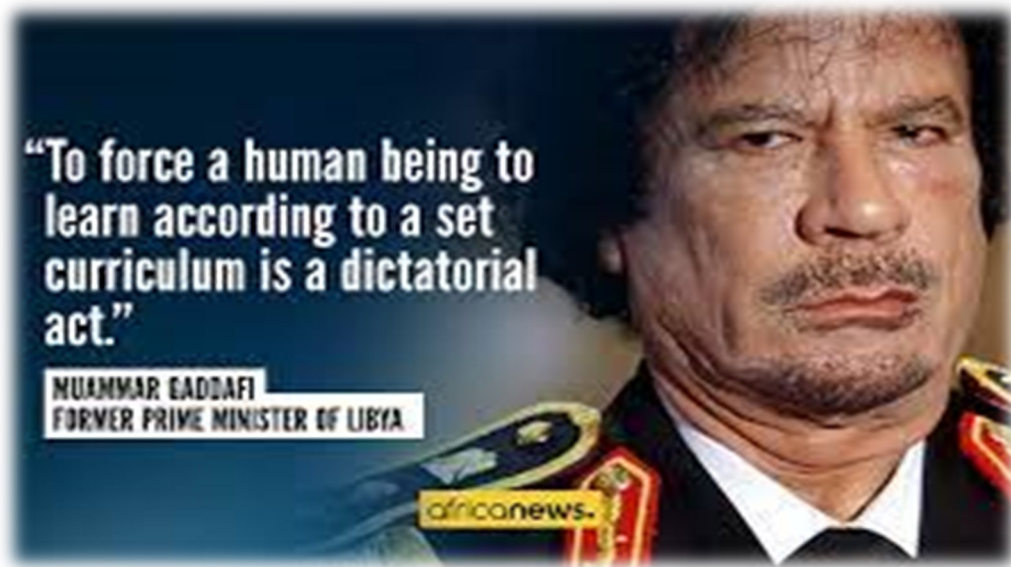


108

Greatest Of All Times



Globally selected  
Personalities



7 Jun 1942 <::><::><::> 20 Oct 2011

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7 Jun 1942



20 Oct 2011

## Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi

# Obituary

Narcissistic leader of Libya since 1969 who backed terrorism round the world and became US public enemy number one

It did not come as a complete surprise when, on 1 September 1969, members of the Free Officers movement overthrew the sick, ageing and self-effacing King Idris of Libya, that vast, underpopulated, least known of north African states. Revolutions were very much the fashion in an Arab world still shaking off centuries of direct foreign rule, or indigenous systems installed by foreigners. And, in the wake of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the blow that shattering defeat dealt to the pride and post-independence pretensions of Arabs everywhere, there had been riots and demonstrations in his otherwise tranquil, western-protected kingdom.

Yet Arabs could expect precious little of what they saw as a uniquely uninspiring land, barren, backward and impoverished – a mere passageway between the civilisations of Egypt and the Maghreb – and could not imagine that it would ever play a decisive role in the affairs of their region, let alone the world, or even aspire to.

They reckoned without the signals officer who led the coup, Captain Muammar al-Gaddafi, who has died aged 69 of wounds sustained when he was captured in his ancestral home of Sirte in the so-far bloodiest uprising of the Arab spring.

Gaddafi was a volcanic child of his times, possessed, from early youth, of a mystical sense of destiny which was enhanced, not diminished, by the very humility of his origins.

Born in a bedouin tent, he was a member of the semi-nomadic al-Gadafa clan from the central Libyan coast. He went to a traditional Qur'anic infants' school, about the only form of instruction then available to a boy such as himself, before going on to the Sirte primary school at the age of 10. In 1956 he moved to the secondary school in Sebha, capital of the remote southern province of Fezzan.

It was the year of Suez, the Anglo-French attack on Egypt that marked the emergence of the young Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had overthrown King Farouk and his decadent dynasty four years before, as the Arab champion of modern times. With Nasser as his idol – he too later titled himself colonel – the 14-year-old Gaddafi was caught up in the surging pan-Arab emotions of the time, in the ideals of Arab renaissance, unity, strength and the "liberation" of Palestine.

Expelled from school for his political activities, he continued his secondary education at Misrata, on the coast, and there, with some of his classmates, he decided to join the army as a means of overthrowing the monarchy. In 1963 he enrolled in the Benghazi military academy, where he cultivated his group of would-be revolutionaries with himself as their uncontested chief. After a brief training interval in Britain, he was posted to Khar Yunis, near Benghazi, from where, with remarkable ease, he seized the absolute power which, through many vicissitudes, he managed to preserve until 2011.

Of all such Arab "revolutions", his was perhaps the sharpest, swiftest, cleanest break with the past, the most obviously identified with a single personality. No such leader had more vaulting personal ambitions than he. None, in the shape of a small, easily governable population, and the bonanza of immense oil wealth, should have been better equipped to achieve them. Yet none – even by his own original criteria – was ultimately to fail more abjectly. To be sure, he put his obscure country on the political map. He became a household name, a bogeyman of the western world. But as for the real, enduring achievements of his 42-year career, they were in inverse proportion to the extravagance with which he conducted it.

Nasser was a flawed and tragic idol by the time Gaddafi had acquired the means to emulate him, but an immensely potent one all the same, and had he lived, the disciple would have remained in the shadow of the master. But within a year of Gaddafi's revolution, Nasser had died after a heart attack, and the disciple appointed himself as "leader", "teacher" and "custodian of Arabism" in his place.

The existing Arab order, he preached, was replete with hypocrisy and two-faced policies, with feeble and shameful regimes who worked against, not for, Arab unity and the Palestinian cause in which they claimed to believe. But he would surely succeed where his master had failed. And already he was hinting at yet larger, visionary ambitions than that. "The Libyans," said his second-in-command, Major Abdessalam Jalloud, "are as nothing without Gaddafi ... he is neither his own, the Libyans', nor even the Arabs' property, but the property of free men everywhere, from the Philippines to Ireland [the IRA in the 1970s and 80s], Africa to Latin America and Europe."

In this narcissism and self-aggrandisement, he was at least in some measure the child not so much of his Arab times as of the narrow Libyan sphere which he was trying to transcend. In part, at least, they were an outgrowth of something in the Libyans' psyche, a sense of inferiority and an aggrieved conviction that their brother Arabs had never appreciated the immense scale, heroism and sacrifice of their struggle against the Italians before the colonists were driven out by the allies in 1943, in which one-third of the population had died, including many members of Gaddafi's own family. No one believed in his own high destiny like Gaddafi himself. "He who has principles and a mission cannot be restricted by his potentials. When the Prophet Muhammad was given his Islamic mission, he called on the Persian and Roman kings to convert to Islam. Could a bedouin shepherd stand in the face of the Roman and Persian kings?"

His first quest was to unite Libya and Egypt, combining the newfound oil wealth of the former with the large population, skills and education of the latter to make a great state to which other states would rally. In July 1973 thousands of boisterous Gaddafist youths, in buses and cars, streamed across the Egyptian frontier demanding instant merger in petitions signed in blood. It was one of at least half a dozen such unionist experiments, with a variety of partners, which foundered on the rocks of the would-be partners' infirmity of purpose, fear, suspicion and disdain of this bizarre, arrogant, impetuous upstart.

Gaddafi's pan-Arab ambitions were always closest to his visionary's heart. But, frustrated on every front, he began to look inwards, confining himself to the only arena, Libya itself, where his absolute writ ran incontestably. The long-suffering Libyan people became the only possible laboratory for his weird, utopian conceits.

In 1977 he turned Libya into the Great Jamahiriya. In line with his Third Universal Theory, his answer to the discredited systems of capitalism and communism, the Jamahiriya, or State of the Masses, supplanted the Jumhuriya, or Republic, as the most advanced form of government ever known to mankind.

In one volume of his famous Green Book, outlining his solution to the "political problem", he revealed how, through committees everywhere, his new system ended all conventional forms of government – "authoritarian, family, tribal, factional, class, parliamentary, partisan or party coalition" – replacing them with "direct democracy" and "people's power". Society's vanguard, the revolutionary committees, or "those who have been convinced, through the Green Book, of the fraudulence of contemporary democracy", were to incite the masses in their conquest of all bastions of "conventional" authority.

In a second volume, his solution to the "economic problem", he envisaged a society that would banish the profit motive, and ultimately money itself, and where no one would work for anyone else.

The spread of the new gospel was a historic necessity. Just as the European despots ganged together to crush the new republican order to which the French revolution gave

birth, so the Arab kings and presidents would round on the Jamahiriyah to preserve their "crumbling power and apostate policies".

But this was to amount to a self-fulfilling prophecy. From being an aspirant for union, President Anwar Sadat's Egypt quickly became a mortal enemy, and waged a vicious border war against its neighbour. Libya came under such assaults not because of the power of a new idea – Burkina Faso was the only other country to declare itself a Jamahiriyah. For in practice, Gaddafi remained a very conventional ruler of a developing country. Behind the pretentious facade, his power rested on a very down-to-earth mixture of totalitarian method and tribal loyalty, with his revolutionary committees as the instrument of policies that came from the top, almost never, as under the "people's power" they should have, from below.

If he achieved anything, it was mainly because of oil – which yielded ever-increasing billions a year for a people of 2 to 3 million – and his freedom to impose his peculiar brand of Arab socialism without regard for true cost. Yet even so, he could not avert the chaos, the grim fiasco of his grandiose supermarkets' empty shelves, of stampedes – in which people were trampled to death – for basic commodities when they did arrive. He also spent huge sums on a Soviet-supplied arsenal. But neither the money nor the 8,000 Soviet technicians could hide the fact that much of it was rotting away in the desert.

No, the foreign desire to stamp out the Jamahiriyah was a self-fulfilling prophecy because, in his pan-Arab frustrations, Gaddafi turned more and more to propaganda, subversion and the patronage of every conceivable "liberation" movement, from semi-respectable Palestinian organisations to outright terrorists such as Carlos the Jackal and Abu Nidal. He openly espoused revolutionary violence, and sent hit teams to assassinate Libyan "stray dogs" who opposed him from exile. In 1984, shots fired from the Libyan embassy in London killed PC Yvonne Fletcher while she was policing a demonstration, and Britain broke off diplomatic ties.

Gaddafi declared war on the American-sponsored peace process and became the US's public enemy number one. In 1981 the Sixth Fleet shot down two Libyan fighters over the Gulf of Sirte in the first military collision, in modern times, between the US and an Arab country. Then, in 1986, President Ronald Reagan sent waves of warplanes to bombard targets in Tripoli and Benghazi. One was the Aziziyah barracks where Gaddafi lived, but instead of the man Reagan called "the mad dog of the Middle East", they apparently – according to state media – killed his adopted daughter, Hanna, instead.

It took some time to appear, but this raid, and above all the attempt to kill him, had a sobering effect. Emulating President Mikhail Gorbachev, in 1988 Gaddafi began a characteristically flamboyant perestroika of his own.

The revisionism was implicit recognition that the Libyan people would have been quite unmoved had Reagan's F-111s got him, that he had reached a nadir of unpopularity, the cumulative consequence of American hostility, foreign misadventures, domestic repression and the havoc wrought by his puerile Green Book socio-economic theories. He mounted a bulldozer and rammed the walls of a well-known Tripoli jail. Political

prisoners clambered free from there and other places where they had been incarcerated for years, often without knowing why. Private retail trade trickled back to the long-shuttered Italianate arcades of central Tripoli, bringing with it wonderful things such as soap, razor blades and batteries, which had all but vanished in the era of "supermarket socialism".

The perestroika pleased Libyans so far as it went, yearning as they did for the day when, like any conventional leader, theirs would turn his attention to the ordinary problems of a small and rather ordinary country. It also impressed western diplomats as a possible portent of a radically new Gaddafi, one readying himself to renounce his fierce and flamboyant anti-imperialism and his sponsorship of international terrorism. Yet if, at last, this really did signify the mellowing, on all fronts, of the *enfant terrible* of the Arab world, it was a process that was suddenly thrown into reverse by a single horrific legacy of the terrorist past which he was apparently trying to put behind him.

That was the bombing, in 1988, of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, with the loss of all 259 passengers and crew aboard, along with 11 people on the ground. After a huge international investigation, in 1991 Britain and America accused Libya of responsibility, and demanded that it hand over the two chief suspects, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi and al-Amin Khalifa Fahima, members of Gaddafi's intelligence services, for trial.

His first instinct was to rail and abuse. It would be treason for Libya to do so, it was in a historic confrontation with the west, in the course of which, if need be, it would set fire to all oilfields. Gaddafi was afraid that to yield up those two obscure apparatchiks would be to strike at the very foundations of his tribal-cum-military power. In any case, he had already persuaded himself that it was not just the two suspects that the west was after, but his own head.

On the other hand, if he did not comply, the sanctions, mainly an air embargo,, which the UN imposed in 1992 and ratcheted up a year later, were going to cripple his effort to restore his ravaged economy. He needed, above all, to placate his people, the sanctions' prime victims, who were mostly blaming him, and him alone, for them.

And he was already facing unrest enough. In 1993 he was deeply rattled by a tribally based military rebellion and assassination attempt that he only narrowly escaped. He was also confronting an Islamist terror campaign, in the hilly eastern regions of Libya, partly inspired by those already raging in neighbouring Egypt and Algeria. This put paid to even the pretence of perestroika. It was back to the killing or abduction of "stray dogs" – now conducted with the complicity of his fellow despot, the Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak, a man with whom he was deeply at odds in almost everything else – and back to blood-curdling threats from himself: "When traitors are discovered in a tribe, the Libyan people automatically consider the whole tribe guilty and the people's committees have the right to shoot them dead."

In 1996, one of Gaddafi's brothers-in-law, Abdullah Sannusi, is said to have presided over an alleged massacre in Abu Salim prison, Tripoli, in which guards are said to have gone from cell to cell with Kalashnikovs and grenades, killing 1,200 inmates. And things were



apparently getting so bad on the economic front that a law was passed that widened the scope of the death penalty to include "speculation in food, clothes or housing during a state of war".

It was only in 1999, after interminable wrangling over face-saving terms and conditions, that Gaddafi handed over the two suspects for trial in the Netherlands under Scottish law. Two years later, he was outraged at the conviction of al-Megrahi, mocking it as Christian justice and a laughable masquerade. But still this was not enough for the US and Britain. They demanded a clear, official acknowledgment of responsibility for the atrocity and compensation – some \$2.7bn of it – for the victims' families. With much squirming, he complied on both counts – and thereby secured the full-scale lifting of sanctions and general rehabilitation he so desperately needed.

It inaugurated what, in effect, was a third great transformation in Gaddafi's international orientation. With the first of them, he had reached a point of such disgust that he pronounced: "Arab nationalism and unity have gone for ever. May God keep the Arabs away from us, for we don't want anything more to do with them." He turned to another continent instead. "Libya," he now decreed, "is an African country." And he expounded his new vision – a United States of Africa, with Sirte as its capital, and himself as its self-anointed king of kings. But before long he was growing tired of Africa in turn, and Africa of him.

Even he could hardly have imagined that he could ever turn Europe into the arena of yet another of his grandiose moral, civilisational and geopolitical designs. Nonetheless, he did treat it to lectures and theories about where its future lay, or should. He already saw signs, he once told it, that God would "grant Islam victory in Europe without swords, guns or conquests" and that "the 50 million [sic] Muslims of Europe would turn it into a Muslim continent with a few decades".

And now, persona grata there himself, he visited on Rome, Paris and other European capitals all those grotesque eccentricities of personal conduct for which he had grown famous, or infamous, elsewhere. His monstrous wardrobe, his entourages of 300 or 400 ferried in four aeroplanes, his huge bedouin tent, complete with accompanying camel, pitched in public parks or in the grounds of five-star hotels – and his bodyguards of gun-toting young women, who, though by no means hiding their charms beneath demure Islamic veils, were all supposedly virgins, and sworn to give their lives for their leader.

Of course Europe was no more going to take him to its bosom than its Arab and African predecessors had. In any case, its main interest, just like his, was business – access to Libya's large reserves of oil, investment and a role in the reconstruction of its economy. And western governments now deemed – somewhat disingenuously – that he was doing enough, in renouncing his former wicked ways, to justify this very pragmatic rapprochement.

And the rapprochement deepened beyond the merely economic. After the terrorist attacks on the US in September 2001, the one-time world leader in the export of terror was gradually elevated into a virtual western ally in the war against it. Then, in 2003, he

announced that Libya had decided to get rid of any nuclear, biological or chemical weapons in its possession. President George W Bush and Tony Blair leapt to praise this "courageous and wise decision" – even as they claimed it as a great strategic consequence of their overthrow of Saddam Hussein, and the fear which that had inculcated in other despots.

But these changes, designed to please the west, were not matched by any remotely comparable ones on the home front. Ostensibly, Gaddafi did seek internal reforms of sorts. His second son, Saif al-Islam, had long been openly critical of the Jamahiriya's deep failings in governance, economic management and human rights. He even led a semi-public inquiry into the massacre at Abu Salim in which it is suggested that his own uncle had participated. It was he whom Gaddafi put in charge of bringing the reforms about.

However, Saif al-Islam did not get very far. For he ran into resistance, not merely from such pillars of the system as its revolutionary committees" and a nomenklatura deeply wedded to the status quo, but also from Gaddafi himself. For, when it came to the crunch, Gaddafi Sr was not ready to let junior do more than tinker with the whole, bizarre edifice of power which he had created, and reminded him that the direct democracy that it embodied was the best in the world.

When it came to the economy, Saif al-Islam could not stray far from the Green Book either. Yes, his father conceded, his economic theory had meant the nationalisation of just about everything. But that, he now said, had been merely transitional. All the theory needed was elaboration and refinement for the benefit of the ordinary mortals who had to make it work, and who, in their obtuseness, opportunism or sheer malevolence, had misinterpreted or abused it.

Gaddafi had come to power as the last revolutionary of the pan-Arab nationalist Nasser generation. He eventually became the doyen of them all. None was to enjoy such absolute power for so long as he, and none had had such an opportunity to shape their systems and societies with quite such untrammelled ease. Consequently, in none had the failure of a whole generation's revolutionary expectations been more blatant than it had been in him.

The "messenger of the desert" reduced his country to a far worse condition than he found it in. Survival, for the 42 years that made him longest-serving non-royal ruler in the world, was about the only thing he could boast of. And till he was challenged both internally and by international forces, there was little to suggest that he could not have survived for many more years, and eventually – like just about every other leader of once-revolutionary Arab republics had already done or planned to do – perpetuate himself and his Jamahiriya in the person of his son. That son would not have been his eldest, Muhammad, from a first, short-lived marriage to Fatiha al-Nuri, but Saif al-Islam, his eldest by his second wife, Safiya Farkash. He is survived by those three and by other children from his second marriage; his sons, Saadi, Mutassim, Hannibal and Khamis; a daughter, Aisha; and Milad Abuztaia, an adopted nephew. His son Saif al-Arab from his second marriage was killed in a Nato air strike.



Gaddafi's powers of survival notwithstanding, once the hurricane of the Arab democratic revolution began to blow, nothing seemed more obvious – or fitting – than that he, cruellest, most capricious and ruinous of Arab dictators, should be among the first three to be swept away. It even looked as though he might go as swiftly as the neighbouring presidents Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali and Mubarak in Tunisia and Egypt.

Within days he had lost control of Benghazi, a traditionally self-willed city, as well as vast swaths of eastern Libya. The contagion spread to the west, where important towns and tribal districts fell to local rebellions. Waves of protesters were in the streets of Tripoli itself. And with panic and confusion taking hold in high places, with long-serving officials and military commanders rushing to defect, his power seemed close to crumbling before this tidal wave of pure, unbridled "people's power".

But that was not to be. Turning tanks, artillery and warplanes on civilians, Gaddafi killed and injured thousands. And then, recovering from the initial shock, he rallied what was left of his loyalist apparatus and launched a systematic, multipronged counter-offensive to reimpose his sway over the capital and retake areas lost in the east. Now, it was no longer, as in days gone by, just occasional plotters and renegades who had betrayed him. It was an entire people, "stray dogs" all, "rats, traitors, hypocrites, drug addicts – and agents of al-Qaida". Now, he and Saif al-Islam vied with one another in warning of the "rivers of blood" to come if this aberrant people failed to make the only sensible choice available to it, between "submission – or liquidation and war until the last man and the last bullet".

As the resurgent military reappeared at the gates of Benghazi – now the rebel headquarters and seat of a rival administration – a massacre loomed. And that prospect triggered a reaction that was probably decisive to Gaddafi's ultimate undoing. With broad Arab backing, Nato forces imposed a no-fly zone over the country. Their mandate was to protect civilians only, but in due course they became a de facto instrument of regime change, in conjunction with the rebel forces on the ground.

Western aircraft steadily eroded the Gaddafi military's ability to exploit its vastly superior, and professionally delivered, firepower, targeting concentrations of artillery and armour as they lay siege to rebel-held cities. Chaotic at first, without training or any but the most rudimentary equipment, and fired only by enthusiasm and reckless courage, the disconnected groups of volunteer fighters gradually acquired sufficient military skills and improved, makeshift weaponry first to hold their own, and then to achieve minor gains here and there.

After six months of stalemate, they surprised the world, and perhaps themselves, with their lightning descent on the capital and their conquest of the Bab al-Aziziya barracks – that vast, forbidding high-walled fortress, home, seat of power, and above all, crass, iconic, absurdist symbol of Gaddafi and all his works. It was only a matter of time before National Transitional Council forces took control of the rest of the country, and even Sirte finally provided no refuge.

[Brotherly Leader](#)  
**Muammar Gaddafi**

معمر القذافي



Gaddafi in 1970

[Brotherly Leader and Guide of the Revolution](#)

**In office**

2 March 1979 – 20 October 2011<sup>[a]</sup>

**Prime Minister**

[show](#)  
*See list*

**Preceded by**

*Himself* (as Chairman of the RCC)

**Succeeded by**

[Mustafa Abdul Jalil](#) (as Chairman of the NTC)

[Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Libya](#)

**In office**

1 September 1969 – 2 March 1977

**Prime Minister**

[show](#)  
*See list*

**Preceded by**

[Idris I](#) (as King of Libya)

**Succeeded by**

*Himself* (as Brotherly Leader and Guide of the Revolution)

[Secretary General of the General People's Congress](#)

**In office**

2 March 1977 – 2 March 1979

**Prime Minister**

[Abdul Ati al-Obeidi](#)

**Preceded by**

*Position established*

**Succeeded by**

Abdul Ati al-Obeidi

[Head of Government of Libya](#)

As [Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council](#)

**In office**

16 January 1970 – 16 July 1972

**Preceded by** [Mahmud Suleiman Maghribi](#)

**Succeeded by** [Abdessalam Jalloud](#)

7th [Chairperson of the African Union](#)

**In office**

2 February 2009 – 31 January 2010

**Preceded by** [Jakaya Kikwete](#)

**Succeeded by** [Bingu wa Mutharika](#)

**Personal details**

**Born** Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi

c. 1942

[Qasr Abu Hadi](#), [Italian Libya](#)

**Died** 20 October 2011 (aged 68–69)  
[Sirte](#), [Libya](#)

**Manner of death** [Assassination](#)

**Resting place** In an unknown location in the [Libyan Desert](#)

**Political party**

- [Arab Socialist Union](#) (1971–1977)
- [Independent](#) (1977–2011)

**Spouses**

- [Fathia Nuri](#)

(m. 1969; div. 1970)

- [Safia Farkash](#)

(m. 1970)

**Children** 10  
show  
**Sons** (8)  
show  
**Daughters** (2)

**Residence** [Bab al-Azizia](#)

**[Alma mater](#)**

- [University of Libya](#)
- [Royal Military Academy, Benghazi](#)

**Signature**



**Military service**

**Allegiance**

-  [Kingdom of Libya](#) (1961–1969)
-  [Libyan Arab Republic](#) (1969–1977)
-  [Libyan Arab Jamahiriya](#) (1977–2011)

**Branch/service** [Libyan Army](#)

**Years of service** 1961–2011

<b>Rank</b>	<a href="#">Colonel</a>
<b>Commands</b>	<a href="#">Libyan Armed Forces</a>
<b>Battles/wars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Yom Kippur War</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Egyptian–Libyan War</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Chadian–Libyan War</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Toyota War</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Uganda–Tanzania War</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">First Liberian Civil War</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">First Libyan Civil War</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">2011 military intervention in Libya</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## TIMELINE

**7 June 1942** [Muammar Gaddafi](#) is born in Sirte to Bedouin family, part of the Berber Qadhadhfi clan. Later enrolls at Benghazi University to study geography, but subsequently drops out to join the army.

**1961-66** Studies at Libyan military academy, Benghazi: and some training in Britain. Becomes enthused by rise of Arab nationalism and is particularly influenced by the example of Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser.

**1 September 1969** Leads a bloodless coup against Libya's pro-western King Idris who is abroad receiving medical treatment. Abolishes monarchy.

**1970** Expels Italians, Libya's former colonialists. "Arabification" of Libya begins, removing western influences: dates and months renamed: June becomes Nasser, for example.

**1973** Establishes unelected revolutionary committees to govern locally. Reporting to Gaddafi, are tasked with suppressing opposition: pro-western democrats and Hizb-ut Tahrir supporters alike are arrested, imprisoned and some executed.

Starts of cult of "Brother Leader", aka Guide of the Revolution, Supreme Guide and King of Kings.

**1975** Publishes the Green Book, his political philosophy expounding his opposition to democracy, capitalism and a free media.

**1974** Attempts to merge with Tunisia are rebuffed. This does not stop further attempts to merge with other Arab nations – Sudan and Egypt decline his wooing as well.

**1977** Renames Libya the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya – its slogan "God! Muammar! Libya! Enough!"

Embarks on a short, disastrous war with Egypt that ends in Libya being forced to retreat.

**1978** Increases Libyan involvement in the Chadian civil war, providing weapons, air support and ground units to rebels.

**1970s onwards** Gaddafi sponsors, provides funds for and arms a range of international terrorist groups across south-east Asia, Europe, Britain and Latin America. These include the IRA, Red Army Faction (also known as the Baader-Meinhof gang) in West Germany, the Red Brigades in Italy, ETA in Spain and Farc in Colombia.

Befriends and supports an eclectic range of assorted leaders, including Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia, Jörg Haider in Austria, Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe and latterly Hugo Chávez in Venezuela.

**1980** Violently suppresses and army mutiny in Tobruk and begins policy of assassinating Libyan opponents abroad. Twenty five are killed between 1980-87.

**April 1984** Libyan diplomat shoots dead police officer Yvonne Fletcher, who helping police a demonstration by Libyan exiles outside the Libya's embassy in London. Embassy staff are expelled and diplomatic relations between the UK and Libya are severed.

**April 1986** Libyan agents bombing the La Belle nightclub in Berlin, killing three Americans and injuring 229 others. The US president Ronald Reagan, who describes Gaddafi as a "mad dog" orders a air strikes on Tripoli and Benghazi from British bases, killing up to 35 people.

**1987** Libyan involvement in the war with Chad reaches its final stage, and proves to be another military disaster for Gaddafi. Libya loses 7,500 troops, a tenth of its army, and \$1.5bn equipment.

**December 1988** Pan Am flight 103 from Heathrow to New York is brought down by an on-board bomb over Lockerbie three days before Christmas, killing 270 people. Libyan agents are blamed. Following year a French plane UTA 772 is blown up over Niger, killing 171 people, including the wife of American ambassador to Chad.

**1989** Magreb pact is agreed, provisionally providing closer ties between Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya, though never the sort of unity Gaddafi hopes for.

**1998** Gaddafi expels 30,000 Palestinians from Libya in pique over Israel-PLO peace negotiations.

Shifts his aspirations from Arab nationalism towards [Africa](#), saying: "I have no more time to lose talking to Arabs. I am turning back to realism. The Arab world is finished: Africa is paradise." Eleven years later he is elected chairman of African Union, despite opposition from other member state.

**1999** Gaddafi hands over two Lockerbie bombing suspects for Scottish trial and specially convened court in the Netherlands. Abdelbasset al-Megrahi is convicted is convicted at the trial the following year

**2003** Overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq forces strategic rethink. Gaddafi begins a policy of rapprochement with the west. Britain supports resolution to lift sanctions against Libya. Gaddafi is one of the first to issue an arrest warrant for Osama bin Laden. Accepts Libyan responsibility for Lockerbie.

**2004** Tony Blair meets Gaddafi in the Libyan leader's desert tent. George Bush also restores diplomatic relations with Tripoli.

**2008** Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, meets Gaddafi and apparently enraptures the Libyan leader: an album of photographs of her will be later found in his Tripoli compound after the regime's fall in 2011.

Gaddafi agrees to pay \$2.7bn compensation to relatives of those killed in the Lockerbie bombing.

**2009** Visits the US for first time to address the UN general assembly. It is meant to last 15 minutes but he blusters on for an hour and a half, accusing the security council of being terrorists and demands \$7.7bn compensation to Africa for European colonialism. Intrigues Americans during visit by bring his bedouin tent to sleep in.

Megrahi, the only person convicted over the Lockerbie bombing, is repatriated by the Scottish authorities, apparently suffering from final stages of cancer

**2010** Agrees to pay \$3.5bn compensation to victims of the IRA. Makes a state visit to Italy, during which he demands provision of 200 glamorous women to listen to lectures in the hope of converting them to Islam and possible marriage with Libyan men.

**February 2011** Gaddafi is by now the 4th longest reigning, non-royal national leader since 1900 and the longest-ruling leader in the Arab world. Libyans in Benghazi begin to rise up against his regime. He threatens opponents with death and advances on rebel stronghold, triggering intervention from Nato.

**June 2011** The international criminal court at The Hague indicts him, his son Saif Saif al-Islam Gaddafi and his brother-in-law Abdullah al-Senussi for crimes against humanity.

**August 2011** Tripoli falls.

**16 Sept 2011** The U.N. Security Council eases sanctions on Libya and the U.N. General Assembly approves a request to accredit interim government envoys as Libya's sole representatives at the U.N., effectively recognizing the NTC.

**20 Oct 2011** - Gaddafi is captured and killed as NTC fighters take his hometown of Sirte.

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### Killing of Muammar Gaddafi

Part of the [First Libyan Civil War](#)





Muammar al-Gaddafi at the <a href="#">AU</a> summit, 2009	
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Sirte</a> , <a href="#">Libya</a>
<b>Date</b>	20 October 2011
<b>Target</b>	<a href="#">Muammar Gaddafi</a>
<b>Attack type</b>	<a href="#">War crime</a> , <a href="#">extrajudicial execution</a> , <a href="#">Summary execution</a> , <a href="#">torture killing</a>
<b>Perpetrators</b>	<div>  <a href="#">National Transitional Council</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">National Liberation Army</a></li> </ul> </div> <div>  <a href="#">NATO command</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <a href="#">France</a></li> <li> <a href="#">United Kingdom</a></li> <li> <a href="#">United States</a></li> </ul> </div>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing\\_of\\_Muammar\\_Gaddafi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Muammar_Gaddafi)

The **killing of Muammar Gaddafi** took place on 20 October 2011 after the [Battle of Sirte](#). [Muammar Gaddafi](#), the deposed leader of [Libya](#), was captured by [NTC](#) forces and executed shortly afterwards.

The NTC initially claimed Gaddafi succumbed to injuries sustained in a firefight when loyalist forces attempted to free him, although a video of his last moments shows rebel fighters beating him and one of them [sodomizing](#) him with a [bayonet](#) before he was shot several times.

The killing of Gaddafi was criticized as a violation of international law.<sup>[4][5]</sup> [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) called for an independent [autopsy](#) and an investigation into how Gaddafi died.

## Events

After the [fall of Tripoli](#) to forces of the opposition [National Transitional Council](#) (NTC) in August 2011, Gaddafi and his family escaped the Libyan capital. He was widely rumored to have taken refuge in the south of the country. In fact, Gaddafi had fled in a small convoy to Sirte on the day Tripoli fell. His son, [Mutassim Gaddafi](#), followed in a second convoy.<sup>[7]</sup>

On 19 October 2011, Libya's [prime minister](#), [Mahmoud Jibril](#), said that Gaddafi was believed to be in the southern desert, reestablishing his government among pro-Gaddafi tribes in the region. By that point, the NTC had just taken control of the pro-Gaddafi town of [Bani Walid](#) and were close to taking control of Gaddafi's home town, the tribal heartland of Sirte, east of Tripoli.<sup>[8]</sup> According to most accounts, Gaddafi had been with heavily armed regime loyalists in several buildings in Sirte for several months as NTC forces took the city.<sup>[9]</sup> [Mansour Dhao](#), a member of Gaddafi's inner circle and leader of the regime's [People's Guard](#), said that Gaddafi was "very delusional" and complained

about the lack of electricity and water. Attempts to persuade him to flee the country and give up power were ignored. As [the last loyalist district of Sirte fell](#), Gaddafi and other members of the government tried to flee.

About 08:30 local time (06:30 [UTC](#)) on 20 October 2011, Gaddafi, his army chief [Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabr](#), his security chief Mansour Dhao, and a group of loyalists tried to escape in a convoy of 75 vehicles. A [Royal Air Force Panavia Tornado](#) during a [reconnaissance mission](#) spotted the convoy moving fast, after NATO forces intercepted a satellite phone call made by Gaddafi.

NATO aircraft then fired on 21 of the vehicles, destroying one. An American [Predator drone](#) controlled from a base near [Las Vegas](#) fired the first missiles at the convoy, hitting its target about 3 kilometres (2 mi) west of Sirte. A moment later, [French Air Force Mirage 2000D](#) fighter jets continued the bombing. The NATO bombing immobilized much of the convoy and killed dozens of loyalist fighters. After the first strike, the convoy split into several groups, with a subsequent strike destroying 11 vehicles. Rebel units on the ground also struck the convoy.

It is unclear whether NATO aircraft were involved in Gaddafi's capture by Libyan forces on the ground. According to their statement, NATO was not aware at the time of the strike that Gaddafi was in the convoy. NATO stated that, in accordance with [United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973](#), it does not target individuals, but only military assets that pose a threat. NATO later learned "from open sources and Allied intelligence" that Gaddafi was in the convoy and that the strike was likely to have contributed to his capture and therefore his death.

After the airstrike, which destroyed the vehicle in front of Muammar Gaddafi's car, he and his son Mutassim, along with former defence minister Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabr, took shelter in a nearby house, which was then shelled by NTC forces.

Mutassim then took 20 fighters and went to look for undamaged cars, having persuaded his father to come too. "The group belly-crawled to a sand berm", according to a United Nations report published in March 2012, and then through two drainage pipes and set up a defensive position.

One of Gaddafi's guards threw a grenade at advancing rebels on the road above, but it hit a concrete wall above the pipes and fell in front of Gaddafi. The guard tried to pick it up, but it exploded, killing both the guard and Yunis Jabr.

## Capture and killing

Gaddafi took refuge in a large [drainage pipe](#) with several loyalist bodyguards. A nearby group of NTC fighters opened fire, wounding Gaddafi in the leg and back. According to one unnamed NTC fighter, one of Gaddafi's own loyalists also shot him, apparently to spare him from being captured. A group of rebels approached the pipe where Gaddafi was hiding and ordered him to come out, which he did slowly. He was then dragged up to his feet as rebels shouted "Muammar, Muammar!"

A United Nations report published in March 2012 gave a different account of Gaddafi's capture. Gaddafi was wounded by fragments of a grenade thrown by one of his own men, which bounced off a wall and fell in front of Gaddafi, shredding his [flak jacket](#). He sat on the floor dazed and in shock, bleeding from a wound in the left temple. Then one of his group waved a white turban in surrender.

Gaddafi was killed shortly afterwards. There are numerous conflicting accounts regarding details and circumstances of his killing. According to a [Misratan](#) rebel fighter, when he asked Gaddafi about the damage done to [Misrata](#) by his forces, he denied any

involvement and quietly asked his captors not to kill him. One fighter demanded that Gaddafi stand up, and he struggled to do so. Gaddafi can be heard in one video saying "God forbids this" and "Do you know right from wrong?" when being shouted at by his captors. In a video of his arrest he can be seen lying on the hood of a car, held by rebel fighters. A senior NTC official said that no order was given to execute Gaddafi.<sup>1</sup> According to another NTC source, "they captured him alive and while he was being taken away, they beat him and then they killed him". However, Prime Minister of NTC Mahmoud Jibril gave a contradictory account, stating that "when the car was moving it was caught in crossfire between the revolutionaries and Gaddafi forces in which he was hit by a bullet in the head".

Several videos related to the death were shown on television and circulated on the internet. The first shows footage of Gaddafi alive, his face and shirt bloodied, stumbling and being dragged toward an ambulance by armed militants chanting "[God is Greater](#)" in [Arabic](#). The video shows Gaddafi being sodomized with a bayonet. Another shows Gaddafi, stripped to the waist, suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the head, and in a pool of blood, together with jubilant fighters firing automatic weapons in the air. A third video, posted on [YouTube](#), shows fighters "hovering around his lifeless-looking body, posing for photographs and yanking his limp head up and down by the hair". Another video shows him being stripped naked and verbally abused by his captors.

Gaddafi's body was taken to Misrata, where a doctor's examination ascertained that he had been shot in the head and abdomen.

## Public display

The interim Libyan authorities decided to keep Gaddafi's body "for a few days", NTC oil minister [Ali Tarhouni](#) said, "to make sure that everybody knows he is dead". The body was moved to an industrial freezer where the public was allowed to see it until 24 October. One video showed Gaddafi's body on display in the center of an emptied public freezer in Misrata. Some people traveled hundreds of kilometers to see proof that Gaddafi was dead. One reporter observed gunshot residue on the wounds, consistent with shots at close range.

Gaddafi's body was displayed alongside that of his son [Mutassim](#), who was killed by Misratan fighters after his capture in Sirte on 20 October 2011. The younger Gaddafi's body was removed from the refrigerator for burial at the same time as his father's, on 24 October 2011.

## Burial

Although an NTC spokesman said Gaddafi's body would be returned to his family with a directive to keep his burial site secret after an autopsy had determined the cause of death,<sup>[1]</sup> the semi-autonomous military council in Misrata said it would be buried quickly instead, vetoing the performance of an autopsy. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch called for an independent autopsy and an investigation into how Gaddafi died,<sup>[6]</sup> but Jibril said neither step was necessary. While the NTC rejected conducting an autopsy, it promised to investigate the incident.

On 25 October 2011, NTC representatives announced that Gaddafi's body had been buried in a secret grave in the desert early that morning, along with those of his son and the regime's defense minister. A Dubai-based satellite TV channel, [Al Aan TV](#), showed amateur video of the funeral, where Islamic prayers were read. Libya's minister for information, [Mahmoud Shammam](#), said that a [fatwa](#) had declared that "Gaddafi should not be buried in Muslim cemeteries and should not be buried in a known place to avoid any [sedition](#)".

## Foreign involvement

Further information: [American involvement in the 2011 Libyan Civil War](#)

Further information: [2011 military intervention in Libya](#)

Moments after it was reported that Gaddafi was killed, [Fox News](#) published an article titled "U.S. Drone Involved in Final Qaddafi Strike, as Obama Heralds Regime's 'End'", noting that a U.S. Predator drone was involved in the airstrike on Gaddafi's convoy in the moments before his death. An anonymous U.S. official subsequently described their policy in hindsight as "lead[ing] from behind".

Because Libyan rebels had consistently told American government officials that they did not want overt foreign military assistance in toppling Gaddafi, [covert military assistance](#) was used (including arms shipments to the opposition). The plan following Gaddafi's death was to immediately begin flowing humanitarian assistance to eastern Libya and later western Libya, as the symbolism would be critically important. U.S. sources stressed it as important that they would "not allow Turkey, Italy and others to steal a march on it.

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## Human Rights Violations during the Libyan Civil War (2011)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human\\_rights\\_violations\\_during\\_the\\_Libyan\\_civil\\_war\\_\(2011\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_violations_during_the_Libyan_civil_war_(2011))

The outbreak of the Libyan Civil War was followed by accusations of human rights violations by rebel forces opposed to Muammar Gaddafi, Gaddafi's armed forces, and NATO. The alleged violations include rape, extrajudicial killings, ethnic cleansing, misconduct and bombings of civilians.



<https://www.icc-cpi.int/libya/gaddafi>

## Libyan Armed Forces

### **Claims of systematic shooting at protesters**

[Luis Moreno Ocampo](#), chief prosecutor of the [International Criminal Court](#), estimated that between 500 and 700 people were killed by Gaddafi's security forces in February 2011, before the rebels even took up arms. "Shooting at protesters was systematic," Moreno-Ocampo stated, discussing the Libyan government's response to the initial anti-government demonstrations.

The Libyan government denied that they ordered killings of demonstrators in the early days of the uprising. They said that soldiers acted in self-defense as they were attacked by mobs.

Moreno-Ocampo further stated that during the conflict, "War crimes are apparently committed as a matter of policy" by forces loyal to Gaddafi. This is further supported by claims of Human Rights Watch, that 10 protesters, who had already agreed to lay down arms, were executed by a government paramilitary group in [Bani Walid](#) in May.

In June 2011, an investigation carried out by [Amnesty International](#) claimed that allegations of use of anti-aircraft guns against crowds lack evidence, noting that rebels at times appeared to have made false claims or manufactured evidence. The used cartridges after protesters were shot at "came from Kalashnikovs or similar calibre weapons". According to the Amnesty investigation, "there is no proof of mass killing of civilians on the scale of Syria or Yemen", adding that in Benghazi 100 to 110 people were killed, and in Baida 59 to 64 people were killed. Most of these were probably protesters, and some might have had weapons.

However, in a later report from Amnesty International it was found that "al-Gaddafi forces committed serious violations of international humanitarian law (IHL), including war crimes, and gross human rights violations, which point to the commission of crimes against humanity. They deliberately killed and injured scores of unarmed protesters; subjected perceived opponents and critics to enforced disappearance and torture and other ill-treatment; and arbitrarily detained scores of civilians. They launched indiscriminate attacks and attacks targeting civilians in their efforts to regain control of Misratah and territory in the east. They launched artillery, mortar and rocket attacks against residential areas. They used inherently indiscriminate weapons such as anti-personnel land mines and cluster bombs, including in residential areas."

In July 2011, [Saif al-Islam Gaddafi](#) had an interview with [Russia Today](#), where he denied the ICC's allegations that he or his father ordered the killing of civilian protesters. He contended that as he was not a member of the government or the military, he therefore had no authority to give such orders. According to Saif, he made recorded calls to General [Abdul Fatah Younis](#) (who later defected to the rebel forces) to request that force not be used against protesters, to which Younis responded that they were attacking a military site, where surprised guards fired in self-defense.

### **Allegations of mass rape**

A Libyan psychologist, [Seham Sergiwa](#), conducted a survey of refugees in [Tunisia](#) and [Egypt](#) to document the trauma of the civil war. Nearly 300 women were reported to have been raped by Gaddafi's forces. The real number could be much higher, considering the stigma attached to rape victims in Libyan society. Every single woman in



the survey who admitted to being raped said they were raped by loyalist soldiers or militiamen.

[United Nations war-crimes expert M. Cherif Bassiouni](#), [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW), [Doctors Without Borders](#) and [Amnesty International](#) stated that they found no evidence of systematic rape conducted by the Libyan government. Amnesty International's Donatella Rovera said that the Benghazi rebels had knowingly made false claims or manufactured evidence, quoting one example of pristine boxes of [Viagra](#) that the rebels said were found inside a totally burned out tank belonging to Gaddafi's troops. This raised serious doubts about the claim that Gaddafi handed out Viagra to his soldiers to enable them to rape more efficiently.

[Physicians for Human Rights](#) (PHR) collected testimony of eyewitness who reported that pro-Gaddafi forces transformed an elementary school into a detention site where they raped women and girls as young as 14 years old.<sup>[11]</sup> PHR also reports of honor killings that occurred in response to these rapes.

### **Use of land mines as a means of war**

[Human Rights Watch](#) has confirmed claims of rebels, that pro-Gaddafi forces used [land mines](#) frequently during the conflict. It found them on at least six different locations in Libya, mostly on frontlines of the Gaddafi forces. Among these land mines are not only anti-tank mines, but also anti-personnel mines, which can permanently pose a threat to civilians.

### **Shelling of civilian areas**

Gaddafi forces have been accused by human-rights groups of shelling towns with heavy weapons, risking civilian lives indiscriminately. The most accusations refer to the [siege of Misrata](#), accusing Gaddafi forces of targeting hospitals and civilian areas, also using internationally outlawed cluster bombs of Spanish production as ammunition, having risked the lives of civilians.

### **Other abuses of non-combatants**

A Human Rights Watch report documents the "unlawful occupation and terror of hospital staff" by pro-Government forces in Yafran in the western mountains, risking the lives of the patients and terrifying the staff contrary to international law.

In August 2011, Physicians for Human Rights released a report documenting severe violations of human rights and evidence of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in Misrata. Findings included that Qaddafi forces used civilians as human shields, attacked ambulances bearing the [Red Crescent](#), destroyed religious buildings, and intentionally starved civilians. In the same report, PHR gave evidence to violations of [medical neutrality](#), such as attacks on medical facilities, medical transport, and medical workers.

Documents which obtained by The Guardian's sister newspaper [The Observer](#) also revealed that Gaddafi's senior generals had ordered bombarding and forced starvation in the city of [Misrata](#), as well as the killing and rape of many of its people.



## **Anti-Gaddafi forces**

### **Crimes against international humanitarian law**

#### **Execution of prisoners of war**

A group of 15 to 22 Libyan army soldiers captured in [Derna](#) were reportedly executed in the neighbouring village of Martuba. 20 kilometres (12 miles) According to a widely circulated story, the men were claimed to have been "executed by their own officers for disobeying orders".

Another group of 15 African mercenaries were publicly executed by hanging in front of the [Bayda](#) courthouse.

#### **Murder and torture of injured soldiers**

On 17 February, the Bayda hospital admitted two injured men, one of darker complexion and the other of olive complexion. The men were accused of fighting against the rebels and being mercenaries. A hospital doctor claimed that the black man was murdered and hung by an angry mob that had gathered around the hospital. The other injured man was reportedly beaten, shot and returned to the emergency room.

#### **Lootings and beatings**

In four towns in the western mountains captured in June by the opposition, HRW noticed looting of private property and beatings of alleged Gaddafi sympathizers by rebel forces. The [National Transitional Council](#) (NTC) then pledged to hold responsible the causers of the attacks and to prevent such abuses in the future.

#### **Killing of civilians**

During the [Battle of Sirte](#), the rebels were accused of killing civilians, including men, women, and children, while there were also reports of the rebels harassing and stealing from the locals. According to one resident, "The rebels are worse than rats. NATO is the same as [Osama bin Laden](#)." According to another local woman, "We lived in democracy under Muammar Gaddafi, he was not a dictator. I lived in freedom, Libyan women had full human rights. It isn't that we need Muammar Gaddafi again, but we want to live just as we did before." A local elderly woman stated "They are killing our children. Why are they doing this? For what? Life was good before!"

#### **NATO airstrikes**

On 9 August, the Libyan government claimed that 85 civilians were killed in [NATO](#) airstrikes on the village of Majer near [Zliten](#). A NATO spokesman said that they were targeting four buildings in which nine vehicles were destroyed and that government claim "*was not corroborated by available factual information at the site*". The Libyan government declared three days of national mourning. Reporters were later taken to a hospital where they saw at least 30 dead bodies, including the bodies of at least two young children. The Libyan government claimed that the bodies of others killed in the airstrikes were taken to other hospitals. Neither of these claims were independently verified, although some media outlets came to the conclusion that it seemed more credible than usual that something tragic happened due to the presence of at least 14 bodies at one hospital, including an infant.

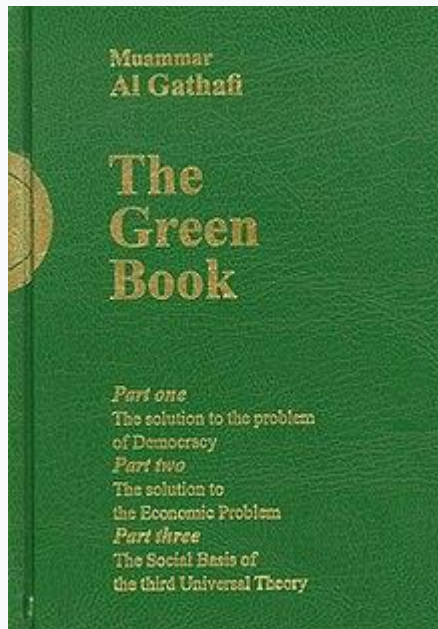
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# The Green Book

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Green\\_Book\\_\(Muammar\\_Gaddafi\)](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Green_Book_(Muammar_Gaddafi))

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Green\\_Book\\_\(Gaddafi\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Green_Book_(Gaddafi))

## *The Green Book*



English language cover for *The Green Book*  
published January 1, 2008 by Ithaca Press

Author	<a href="#">Muammar Gaddafi</a>
Original title	الكتاب الأخضر
Language	Arabic
Subject	<a href="#">Political philosophy</a>
Publisher	<a href="#">People's Establishment for Publication, Distribution, and Advertising<sup>[1]</sup></a>
Publication date	1975
Publication place	Libya
Published in English	1976
Media type	Print
Pages	110
ISBN	<a href="#">978-1-54124-131-2</a>

**The Green Book** ([Arabic](#): الكتاب الأخضر *al-Kitāb al-Aḥḍar*) is a short book setting out the [political philosophy](#) of Libyan leader [Muammar Gaddafi](#). The book was first published in 1975. It is said to have been inspired in part by *The Little Red Book* ([Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung](#)). Both were widely distributed both inside and outside their country of origin, and "written in a simple, understandable style with many memorable slogans".

An English translation was issued by the [People's Establishment for Publication, Distribution, and Advertising](#), an organ of the Libyan [People's Committee](#), and a bilingual [English-Arabic](#) edition was issued in [London](#) by Martin, Brian & O'Keeffe in 1976.

During the [First Libyan Civil War](#) in 2011, during which Gaddafi himself was killed, copies of the book were burned by anti-Gaddafi demonstrators.

The book has 110 pages. It is divided into 3 parts:

- The Solution of the Problem of Democracy: The Authority of the People (published in late 1975)
- The Solution of the Economic Problem: Socialism (published in early 1977)
- The Social Basis of the Third International Theory (published in September 1981)

The book is against both [capitalism](#) and [communism](#). Gaddafi was against communism because he thought it was not respectful to religion. Instead, he promoted [Islamic socialism](#).

The table below gives a chapter-by-chapter summary of the book:

Part	Chapter	Title	Summary
I	1	The Instrument of <a href="#">Government</a>	In this chapter, the question "what form of government should be established?" is asked. Such a government should be a direct democracy, but what usually occurs is representative democracies, which do not represent the will of populations who did not vote for existing governments. Gaddafi condemns <a href="#">election systems where the candidate with the most votes wins</a> .
	2	<a href="#">Parliaments</a>	The basic feature of a representative democracy is its parliament, or assembly. Once elected, members abuse the authority of their constituents during their term of service.
	3	The Party	<a href="#">Political parties</a> themselves abuse the authority given to them by the people because they focus on maintaining power instead of improving society for all. Worse, political parties are susceptible to <a href="#">corruption</a> .
	4	<a href="#">Class</a>	Society is split into classes: some of them are political, social, and tribal. A class which acquires political power, also inherits the society in which that power is gained. A former working class eventually becomes the new ruling class. The problem of a plurality or minority ruling the entire society persists.
	5	<a href="#">Plebiscites</a>	Plebiscites and referendums are not appropriate solutions to the political problem. One's political opinion cannot be reduced to a yes-or-no vote.
	6	Popular Conferences and People's Committees	The solution to the problem of democracy is to establish a series of Popular Conferences (or Congresses) and People's Committees, which consist of the entire society and all of its sectors. Working together, these groups administer the government with the participation of all. These groups are also not parliaments in which authority is delegated.
	7	The Law of <a href="#">Society</a>	The basis of <a href="#">law</a> is in custom and <a href="#">religion</a> , the true source of social rules, and not in written <a href="#">constitutions</a> . The very fact that constitutions are regularly amended is proof that they are weak and not permanent, and are therefore not good tools for government.
	8	Who Supervises the Conduct of Society?	Just as political power should not be delegated to representatives, policing power also should not be delegated away from society. Again, the structure of Conferences and Committees is the solution. The

Whole is the legislature for the Whole, and the Whole is the law enforcement for the Whole.

9      How can Society Redirect its Course when Deviations from its Laws occur?      When a [minority](#) runs a government, another minority with initiative may seize power through [revolution](#), with the result being the same: minority rule. The solution to this cycle is again the system of Conferences and Committees: the entire society governs itself. When this occurs, there is only a Whole, and thus no outside enemy to fight.

10      The Press      While individuals and companies have the right to express themselves privately, "the press" as a means of expression for society must be controlled by the Conferences and Committees. Otherwise, individuals would again take away power away from others in the realm of ideas.

11      The Economic Basis of the Third Universal Theory      Unions and minimum wage do not go far enough in achieving equality for all workers. What is needed is the abolition of wage-earning in favor of a "partnering" process of an individual worker with a given industry. Profits must be shared equally not only among individuals, but among all components of a production process.

12      Need      Need is a central economic problem. The needs of some may be preyed upon by those who have the means to provide, and thus exploit. Government should eliminate such exploitation.

II      13      Housing      Renting out housing is exploitation and infringes the freedom of the renter. Ideally, everyone should have only one house, because if someone has more than one property, they will be inclined to rent it, thereby exploiting their renters.

14      Income      Individual income is essential to an economy. Again, such income should not be wages paid by an owner, but as the result of partnership in an industry.

15      Means of Transportation      Transportation should be available to all. It should not be owned by some only to be rented to others, as in the case of taxi services.

16      Land      Land should be equally available to all. In general, the economy is a zero-sum game, and components of the economy should therefore be distributed equally among all, to produce equality of outcome. No one has the right to save for themselves beyond their own needs.

### III

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 17 | Domestic Servants                              | Domestic servants are basically slaves. The economic model already discussed in this part of the book can be applied to them.  |
| 18 | The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory | Individuals, families, tribes and nations are social units, and their social ties drive the process of history. Of these, the nation is a central unit, held together by nationalism. Just as the sun would disappear without gravity, nations disappear without national unity.   |
| 19 | The Family                                     | Families, individuals and nations (particularly ethnic nation states) are natural human social categories. The modern state is the opposite of what a nation is.   |
| 20 | The Tribe                                      | The next largest human social unit after family is the tribe. Human social units get less important to people as their size increases.   |
| 21 | The Merits of the Tribe                        | Tribes are rooted in blood and provide social cohesion. They can monitor themselves due to their numbers. They also ensure the socialization of their individuals, an education more useful than school.   |
| 22 | The Nation                                     | Again, nationalism is a central social category, one closely related to but distinct from other large-scale social categories: religions, states, and empires. The reason why states and empires change and fall is because they cannot match the power of real nations.   |
| 23 | Woman  | Women and men are equal as human beings. However, physical differences gives rise to gender roles which are natural and appropriate to the differences between the sexes. Freedom consists in following nature, specifically in women having the ability to raise families without being forced by society to seek work. |
| 24 | Minorities                                     | Minorities are of two types: those already having a nation, and those having none and who wish to make their own. Either way, their rights must be protected.  |
| 25 | Black People will Prevail in the World         | <a href="#">Black people</a> will become the majority because their culture includes <a href="#">polygamy</a> and shuns <a href="#">birth control</a> , and because they live in a climate which is "continuously hot", with the result that work is less important for them than in other cultures.                     |
| 26 | Education                                      | School education is a form of tyranny. Education should be made available in whatever ways people wish to learn.   |



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|----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 27 | Music and Art                     | Humans should eventually speak one language. Artistic and cultural tastes are influenced by differences in language, which influence people's "genes".  |
| 28 | Sport, Horsemanship and the Stage | Watching sports and other forms of entertainment is foolish. People should practice sports directly to get the benefits of athletics for themselves, rather than standing by and watching others. |

[Visit the Web Link to reach/read the Book](http://openanthropology.org/libya/gaddafi-green-book.pdf)  
<http://openanthropology.org/libya/gaddafi-green-book.pdf>

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## Awards and Honours


bestowed upon Muammar al-Gaddafi

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_awards\\_and\\_honours\\_bestowed\\_upon\\_Muammar\\_Gaddafi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honours_bestowed_upon_Muammar_Gaddafi)

This is a comprehensive **list of awards, honours and other recognitions bestowed on Muammar al-Gaddafi.**

## Honours

### National honours

Award or decoration	Country	Date	Place	Note	Ref
 Order of the Republic	 Libya	1 September 1969			
 Order of Courage	 Libya	1 September 1969		Military order, awarded to members of the armed forces active during and following the 1 September Revolution.	

	Order of the Grand Conqueror	 Libya	1 September 1969
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## Foreign honours

Award or decoration	Country	Date	Place	Note	Ref
 Honorary Member of the Xirka Ġieħ ir-Repubblika	 Malta	5 December 1975	Valletta	Former highest decoration of the Republic of Malta, now second highest honour. Revoked.	
 Order of the Balkan Mountains	 Bulgaria	17 June 1978	Sofia	Bulgarian highest order of merit.	
 Grand Cordon of the Order of Merit of the People's Republic of Poland	 Poland	June 1978	Warsaw		
 Collar of the Order of the White Lion	 Czechoslovakia	1982	Prague	Czechoslovakian highest order.	
 Hero of the Republic	 North Korea	1982	Pyongyang	Second highest title of North Korea.	
 Order of the National Flag, First Class	 North Korea	1982	Pyongyang	Second highest order of North Korea.	
 Grand Commander of the Order of the	 Nigeria	11 May 1997	Abuja	Nigerian highest honour.	

Federal  
Republic



Grand  
Cross of the  
Order of  
Good Hope

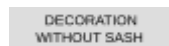


South Africa

29  
October  
1997

Tripoli

Former South  
African highest  
order.



Great Chain  
of Badr



Saudi Arabia

3 June  
1999

Sirte

Highest honour  
of Saudi Arabia.



Yugoslavia

18  
November  
1973

Belgrade

Highest order of  
merit in the  
Socialist Federal  
Republic of  
Yugoslavia.



Great Star  
of the Order  
of the  
Yugoslav  
Star



Yugoslavia

26  
October  
1999

Tripoli

Second highest  
order of merit in  
the Federal  
Republic of  
Yugoslavia.  
Only person to  
be awarded this  
decoration  
twice.



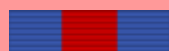
Collar of the  
Order of  
Prince  
Yaroslav the  
Wise



Ukraine

11  
October  
2003

Ukrainian third  
highest order.



Collar of the  
National  
Order of  
Merit



Malta

8  
February  
2004

Republic of  
Malta highest  
order. Revoked.



Order of  
Katonga



Uganda

20 May  
2004

Tripoli

Ugandan  
highest military  
order.



Order of  
Bohdan



Ukraine

4 April  
2008

Khmelnytsky



Grand  
Commander  
of the Order  
of the  
Republic of  
the Gambia



Gambia

22 July  
2009

Banjul

Gambian  
highest  
decoration.



Grand  
Collar of the  
Order of the  
Liberator









Venezuela

28  
September  
2009

Isla  
Margarita

Former  
Venezuelan  
highest  
distinction.

### Honorary degrees

-  Sudan: [University of Khartoum](#) Honorary doctorate, 1996 (revoked on 7 March 2011).
-  South Korea: [Myongji University](#) Honorary doctorate, 29 March 2000.
-  Algeria: [University of Algiers](#) Honorary doctorate, 27 March 2005.
-  Serbia: [Megatrend University](#) Honorary doctorate, March 2007.
-  Tunisia: [Carthage University-National Institute of Applied Science and Technology](#) Honorary doctorate in Arabic and Islamic Civilisation, 12 October 2008.
-  Belarus: [Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics](#) Honorary doctorate, 2010.



## Eponyms



Gaddafi National Mosque in Tripoli, Libya.

- [Gaddafi National Mosque](#), the biggest [mosque](#) in [Kampala](#), [Uganda](#).
- [Gaddafi Mosque](#), in [Dodoma](#), [Tanzania](#).
- Gaddafi Mosque, in [Freetown](#), [Sierra Leone](#).
- Gaddafi Mosque, in [Kigali](#), [Rwanda](#).
- Gaddafi Barracks, a Ugandan Army military base in [Jinja](#), [Uganda](#).
- [Gaddafi Stadium](#), the fourth largest [cricket](#) stadium in [Pakistan](#), situated in [Lahore](#). The complex also has a mosque and a bus station named after Gaddafi.
- [Gaddafi Hockey Stadium](#), the biggest field hockey stadium in the world, located in Lahore, Pakistan.
- [Gaddafi Soccer Stadium](#), a soccer stadium in Lahore, Pakistan.
- [Gaddafi International Foundation for Charity Associations](#), an international [NGO](#).
- Gaddafi Gardens, a garden in [Paola](#), [Malta](#) (renamed Mediterranean Garden in 2016)
- Muammar Gaddafi Playground, a children's playground along the [Miljacka](#) river in [Stari Grad](#), [Sarajevo](#), [Bosnia and Hercegovina](#).

### Other Important Web Links

- [Torture and assassination of Gaddafi](#) – ABC News video
- [U.S. Policy Towards Qaddafi](#) from the [Dean Peter Krogh Foreign Affairs Digital Archives](#)
- [Muammar Gaddafi](#) collected news and commentary at [Al Jazeera English](#)
- [The Muammar Gaddafi story](#) at [BBC Online](#)
- [Muammar Gaddafi](#) collected news and commentary at [The Guardian](#)
- [Muammar Gaddafi](#) collected news and commentary at [The New York Times](#)
- 2009 UN Security council speech from Al Jazeera (English) on [YouTube](#)

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# Muammar al-Gaddafi

## Brief Profile

People of Libya! In response to your own will, fulfilling your most heartfelt wishes, answering your most incessant demands for change and regeneration, and your longing to strive towards these ends: listening to your incitement to rebel, your armed forces have undertaken the overthrow of the corrupt regime, the stench of which has sickened and horrified us all. At a single blow our gallant army has toppled these idols and has destroyed their images. By a single stroke it has lightened the long dark night in which the Turkish domination was followed first by Italian rule, then by this reactionary and decadent regime which was no more than a hotbed of extortion, faction, treachery and treason.

<<< **Gaddafi's radio speech after seizing power, 1969**

**Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi** (7 January 1942 – 20 October 2011) was a Libyan [revolutionary](#), politician and political theorist who ruled [Libya](#) from 1969 until his [assassination](#) by [rebel forces](#) in 2011. He came to power through a [military coup](#), first becoming [Revolutionary Chairman](#) of the [Libyan Arab Republic](#) from 1969 to 1977 and then the '[Brotherly Leader](#)' of the [Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya](#) from 1977 to 2011. Initially ideologically committed to [Arab nationalism](#) and [Nasserism](#), Gaddafi later ruled according to his own [Third International Theory](#).

Born near [Sirte](#), [Italian Libya](#), to a poor [Bedouin](#) Arab family, Gaddafi became an Arab nationalist while at school in [Sabha](#), later enrolling in the [Royal Military Academy, Benghazi](#). Within the military, he founded a revolutionary group known as the [Free Officers movement](#) which deposed the [Western](#)-backed [Senussi](#) monarchy of [Idris](#) in a [1969 coup](#). After taking power, Gaddafi converted Libya into a republic governed by his [Revolutionary Command Council](#). [Ruling by decree](#), he [deported Libya's Italian population](#) and ejected its Western military bases. He strengthened ties to Arab nationalist governments—particularly [Gamal Abdel Nasser's](#) Egypt—and unsuccessfully advocated [pan-Arab political union](#). An [Islamic modernist](#), he introduced [sharia](#) as the basis for the legal system and promoted [Islamic socialism](#). He nationalized the oil industry and used the increasing state revenues to bolster the military, [fund foreign revolutionaries](#), and implement social programs emphasizing housebuilding, healthcare and education projects. In 1973, he initiated a "[Popular Revolution](#)" with the formation of [Basic People's Congresses](#), presented as a system of [direct democracy](#), but retained

personal control over major decisions. He outlined his Third International Theory that year in [\*The Green Book\*](#).

In 1977 Gaddafi transformed Libya into a new [socialist state](#) called a [Jamahiriya](#) ("state of the masses"). He officially adopted a symbolic role in governance but remained head of both the military and the Revolutionary Committees responsible for policing and suppressing dissent. During the 1970s and 1980s, Libya's unsuccessful border conflicts with [Egypt](#) and [Chad](#), support for foreign militants, and alleged responsibility for bombings of [Pan Am Flight 103](#) and [UTA Flight 772](#) left it increasingly isolated on the world stage. A particularly hostile relationship developed with Israel, the United States and the United Kingdom, resulting in the [1986 U.S. bombing of Libya](#) and United Nations–imposed economic sanctions. From 1999, Gaddafi shunned pan-Arabism, and encouraged [pan-Africanism](#) and rapprochement with [Western nations](#); he was [Chairperson of the African Union](#) from 2009 to 2010. Amid the 2011 [Arab Spring](#), protests against widespread corruption and unemployment broke out in eastern Libya. The situation descended into [civil war](#), in which [NATO intervened militarily](#) on the side of the anti-Gaddafist [National Transitional Council](#) (NTC). Gaddafi's government was overthrown; he retreated to Sirte only to be captured, tortured and killed by NTC militants.

A highly divisive figure, Gaddafi dominated Libya's politics for four decades and was the subject of a pervasive [cult of personality](#). He was decorated with various awards and praised for his [anti-imperialist](#) stance, support for Arab—and then African—unity, as well as for significant development to the country following the discovery of oil reserves. Conversely, many Libyans strongly opposed Gaddafi's social and economic reforms; he was posthumously accused of various human rights violations. He was condemned by many as a dictator whose [authoritarian](#) administration systematically violated [human rights](#) and financed global [terrorism](#) in the region and abroad.

According to Vandewalle, Gaddafi "dominated [Libya's] political life" during his period in power. The sociologist Raymond A. Hinnebusch described the Libyan as "perhaps the most exemplary contemporary case of the politics of charismatic leadership", displaying all of the traits of [charismatic authority](#) outlined by the sociologist [Max Weber](#). According to Hinnebusch, the foundations of Gaddafi's "personal charismatic authority" in Libya stemmed from the blessing he had received from Nasser coupled with "nationalist achievements" such as the expulsion of foreign military bases, the extraction of higher

prices for Libyan oil, and his vocal support for the Palestinian and other anti-imperialist causes.

A [cult of personality](#) devoted to Gaddafi existed in Libya through most of his rule.<sup>1</sup> His biographer Alison Pargeter noted that "he filled every space, moulding the entire country around himself." Depictions of his face could be found throughout the country, including on postage stamps, watches, and school satchels. Quotations from *The Green Book* appeared on a wide variety of places, from street walls to airports and pens, and were put to pop music for public release. In private, Gaddafi often complained that he disliked this personality cult surrounding him, but that he tolerated it because the people of Libya adored him. The cult served a political purpose, with Gaddafi helping to provide a central identity for the Libyan state.

Several biographers and observers characterized Gaddafi as a [populist](#). He enjoyed attending lengthy public sessions where people were invited to question him; these were often televised. Throughout Libya, crowds of supporters would arrive at public events where he appeared. Described as "spontaneous demonstrations" by the government, there are recorded instances of groups being coerced or paid to attend. He was typically late to public events, and would sometimes fail to arrive. Although Bianco thought he had a "gift for oratory", he was considered a poor orator by Blundy and Lycett. The biographer [Daniel Kawczynski](#) noted that Gaddafi was famed for his "lengthy, wandering" speeches, which typically involved criticizing Israel and the US. The journalist [Ruth First](#) described his speeches as being "an inexhaustible flow; didactic, at times incoherent; peppered with snatches of half-formed opinions; admonitions; confidences; some sound common sense, and as much prejudice".

## Public Life

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## A Brief History of Muammar Gaddafi

Use the Web Link to view the Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=i1NkZn5P8UA>

From his extravagant robes, to his signature sunglasses, and his band of female bodyguards, Muammar Gaddafi was as eccentric as he was enigmatic. Embraced by South African President Nelson Mandela for his support for various black liberation movements both within and outside of Africa, but dubbed the 'Mad Dog of the Middle East' by American President Ronald Reagan for his defiantly anti-Western foreign policies, Gaddafi's 42-year reign as Libya's Leader would see him win the allegiance and adoration many African leaders while simultaneously becoming a universal figure of hate all around the Western world.

## Muammar Al Gaddafi

### All Stories for Muammar Al Gaddafi

Read 52 Articles about him by using the Web Link

<https://www.firstpost.com/tag/muammar-al-gaddafi/>

## An Open Letter to Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi

<https://www.nature.com/articles/444146a>

- Correspondence : Published: 02 November 2006

Richard J. Roberts & 113 fellow Nobel Laureates

**Nature** volume 444, page146 (2006) [Cite this article](#)

- **3123** Accesses
- **6** Citations
- **19** Altmetric
- [Metrics](#)



Dear Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi

We, Nobel Laureates in the sciences, are gravely concerned about the ongoing trial of five Bulgarian nurses, Valya Cherveniyashka, Snezhana Dimitrova, Nasya Nenova, Valentina Siropulo, Kristiana Valcheva, and a Palestinian doctor, Ashraf Ahmad Jum'a, in Tripoli. The six face death-penalty charges of deliberately infecting 426 children with HIV at al-Fateh Children's Hospital in Benghazi in 1998. Strong scientific evidence is needed to establish the cause of this infection. However, independent science-based evidence from international experts has so far not been permitted in court.

Libya is currently making efforts to join the community of peaceful nations by renouncing weapons of mass destruction and adhering to international standards regarding the rule of law. This trial is another opportunity for Libya to demonstrate its commitment to recognized values and norms. But so far Libya has failed to follow the norms of international justice in the case of the charged medical workers.

We appreciate the agony and the sadness of the parents of these children and we sympathize with the difficult situation of the Libyan authorities in trying to deal with this matter. However, we feel that if justice is to be served it is essential that the defence should be permitted to present its case.

Among the disallowed scientific evidence is a 2003 report, which Libya requested, and which was provided by Luc Montagnier, a co-discoverer of the virus that causes AIDS, and Italian microbiologist Vittorio Colizzi. The report concluded that the infection at the hospital resulted from poor hygiene and reuse of syringes, and also that the infections began before the arrival of the nurses and doctor in 1998.

On 29 August 2006, a Libyan prosecutor reiterated the call for the six to be given the death penalty. The next, and probably last, court hearing is scheduled for the 4 November, with a verdict expected shortly thereafter. A miscarriage of justice will take place without proper consideration of scientific evidence. We urge the appropriate authorities to take the necessary steps to permit such evidence to be used in this case.

To uphold justice, and ensure a fair trial, we affirm the need for:

- Defence lawyers to have the right to call and examine witnesses on the health workers' behalf under the same conditions as witnesses called against them, and

- The appropriate authorities to call upon internationally recognized experts in AIDS research to examine and testify on the evidence as to the cause of the HIV infections in the children.

Yours sincerely,

Richard J. Roberts and 113 fellow Nobel laureates.

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### Authors and Affiliations

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Richard J. Roberts

### Consortia

### 113 fellow Nobel Laureates

## Additional information

A full list of signatories to this letter is available as [supplementary information](#).

## Supplementary information

### [113 Nobel Laureates](#)

### Cite this article

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# THE GADDAFI PERIOD

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## LIBYAN HERITAGE HOUSE



Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Stamp Commemorating the 12th Anniversary of the 1 September Revolution (issued in 1981).

### The Revolutionary Command Council

Libya under Gaddafi experienced socio-economic and political changes and transitions. Gaddafi rose to power when in September 1969 a group of some 70 army officers carried out a coup against King Idris I, who was the ruler of Libya. The coup was dubbed as the Free Unionist Officers Movement, which eventually led to the old rulers and governing bodies being ousted and the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), taking full control. Initially there were speculations about who had launched the coup, but after Gaddafi was announced as the Commander in Chief of the army

of Libya by the RCC, it became clear that the action was taken under Gaddafi's command<sup>1</sup>.

Within a few days of establishing power, the RCC embarked on initiating significant shifts and changes in economic and political relations nationally as well as internationally, with the foreign powers. Libya's relations with the foreign powers, especially the USA, Britain and other European nations remained hostile throughout much of Gaddafi's period, but he somehow managed to navigate and formed good ties with the Soviets and other African and Arab nations<sup>2</sup>.



The Gaddafi Cabinet's initial and more urgent challenges included the formation of new structures after the old constitution was dismantled. There was no significant popular resistance among the people of Libya to the new regime, but Gaddafi thought it necessary to mitigate all political crises and challenges that the representatives of the old regime could possibly pose. Therefore, the consolidation of administrative power and persecution of former government representatives went hand in hand.

Gaddafi believed that representative democracy as a model of government was inadequate and he thus formed a Jamahiriya that Gaddafi claimed was a system of government and supreme form of democracy, in which the people themselves were the president. In Jamahiriya, Gaddafi argued, the masses possessed more power than they could have under representative or western democracy<sup>3</sup>. The



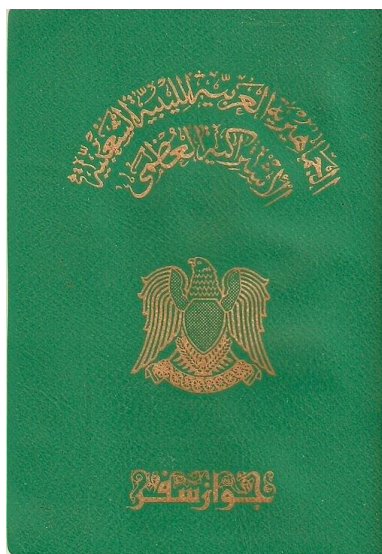
system he introduced was inherently contradictory, as the way he himself rose to the power was questioned by many.



*Gaddafi with Egyptian President Nasser in 1969.*

Libya had significant reserves of crude oil and the discovery of oil changed the socio economic landscape of Libya. Before Gaddafi, Libya had less control on the oil industry as most of the companies involved in oil exploration activities were foreign and it was understandable because Libya lacked the necessary skills, but a few years after Gaddafi took control of the government of Libya, his administration nationalized the oil Industry which had a marked impact on Libya's economy and development<sup>4</sup>.

Gaddafi's rule spanning over 40 years was marked by a number of controversies, which he caused nationally and internationally. Given the nature of these controversies, he never became able to forge sustainable political alliances, either with Arab nations or European. Failing to devise an effective foreign policy among many other things, his rule eventually met a tragic end in 2011 with the advent of Arab spring.



*Distinctive Green Passport of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*

## Arab Spring In Libya

The Arab spring, a wave of violent protests and pro-democracy demonstrations initially started in Tunisia in early 2011 and quickly spread through North Africa and much of the Middle East. The situation in Tunisia led to the ousting of the president, but as the protests and riots began to spread beyond Tunisia, they turned increasingly turbulent<sup>5</sup>.

In Libya, the families of victims of the 1996 Abu Salim Prison Massacre, planned a protest under the leadership of the lawyer, Fathi Terbil, who was representing the 1200 victims of the massacre in court. The protest was claimed as a 'Day of Rage' across Libya<sup>6</sup>. The Libyan government in order to stop the protest arrested Terbil, but it turned out to be a wrong move as large numbers of people expressing solidarity with Terbil took to the streets, and due to the violence used against them by Gaddafi's forces, protests soon spread across all main cities and towns of Libya<sup>7</sup>.



Billboard depicting Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi in Tripoli, Libya, on January 16, 2011.

Initially these protests and riots were against the arrest of Terbil and the violence against the people who held solidarity protests, but as soon as the protests began to spread leading to mass arrests of the protestors, the demand for a change of regime emerged. To suppress this demand and the protests, Gaddafi's government resorted to more arrests and violence. At this point the situation was out of control. The rebel forces became much stronger, with the Libyan government inflicting even greater violence on the protestors. Protests and riots quickly turned into a civil war that eventually led to the lynching and death of Gaddafi on the 20th October 2011, in his hometown of Sirte<sup>8</sup>.





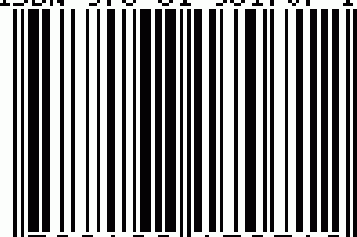
## Death of Gaddafi in the Press

### Footnotes

1. Oyeniyi, Bukola Adeyemi. *The History of Libya*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, an imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC, 2019.
2. *ibid.*
3. *ibid.*
4. *ibid.*
5. *ibid.*
6. *ibid.*
7. *ibid.*
8. *ibid.*



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